WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A digital image reading apparatus comprising:

reading means for optically reading an image of a document to output digital image data;

10 first setting means for setting a reading rate in a given scanning direction to a desired value;

an image memory for temporarily storing the image data;

15 second setting means for setting parameters related to reading the image of the document based on communication with an external apparatus; and

computation means for computing a total amount of the image data from the parameters,

20 wherein the first setting means sets the reading rate based on the total amount of the image data.

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first setting means resets the reading rate to a value higher than a value to which the reading rate is set when the total amount of the

5 image data is smaller than a storage capacity of the image memory.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising transfer means for transferring the image data from the image memory to the external apparatus by communication means.

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4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,

20 wherein IEEE 1394 is employed as the communication means.

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5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein SCSI is employed as the communication means.

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6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first setting means sets the reading rate by controlling a stepping motor involved in

10 scanning in the given scanning direction.

15 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first setting means primarily sets the reading rate on the basis of an available capacity of said image memory.

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8. A digital image reading apparatus comprising:

25 an optical reader optically reading an image

of a document to output digital image data;

a memory temporarily storing the image data from the optical reader; and

a controller computing a total amount of the image data of the document and controlling a reading rate in a given scanning direction on the basis of the total amount of the image data stored in the memory.